

87 free end face 5 faces the outer peripheral surface of the other part (the rotor 60). More specifically, the free end face 5 is in contact with, or in close proximity to, the outer peripheral surface of the rotor 60. The brush seal device 1 serves to seal a sealed fluid on the high-pressure (P1) side.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 10-11 of the Specification as follows:

88 The brush seal 2 is formed from bristles 4 disposed like a wall with a prescribed thickness. More specifically, the bristles 4 are tilted in the rotation direction of the rotor 60, and arranged into a wall shape in the circumferential direction. The bristles 4 are welded together at the outer periphery to form an attachment portion 3. The bristle 4 has a diameter of 0.2 mm to 0.005 mm, and preferably, 0.15mm to 0.008 mm, and has a length of 5 mm to 50 mm. The wall thickness of the bristles 4 is preferably in the range of 0.5 mm to 5 mm.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-5 as follows:

89 1. (Amended) A brush seal device mounted to one of two parts that move relative to each other with a gap therebetween, for sealing the gap between said parts, comprising:

a brush seal formed from bristles arranged into a wall shape, and including an attachment portion formed by connecting said bristles together at one end, and a free end face facing an opposing surface of said other part;

a back plate connected to said attachment portion of said brush seal, and including a support surface for supporting a side surface of said brush seal, said support

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surface having an annular projection extending therefrom, and said back plate further including a recess that accommodates a bended portion of said bristles resulting from a differential pressure; and

a retaining plate for retaining said attachment portion of said brush seal between said retaining plate and said back plate, wherein

said support surface of said back plate and an opposing surface of said brush seal are disposed at a distance from each other,

and said bristle of said brush seal has a diameter of 0.15 mm to 0.008 mm.

2. (Amended) The brush seal device according to claim 1, wherein said projection extends along an arrangement direction of said bristles.

3. (Amended) The brush seal device according to claim 1, wherein said recess is formed along an arrangement direction of said bristles.

4. (Amended) The brush seal device according to claim 1, further comprising another annular projection extending from an inner peripheral end of said support surface.

5. (Amended) A brush seal device mounted to one of two parts that move relative to each other with a gap therebetween, for sealing the gap between said parts, comprising:

a brush seal formed from bristles arranged into a wall shape, and including an attachment portion formed by connecting said bristles together at one end, and a free end face facing an opposing surface of said other part;

a back plate connected to said attachment portion of said brush seal, and including a support surface for supporting a side surface of said brush seal; and

A9 a retaining plate for retaining said attachment portion of said brush seal between
said retaining plate and said back plate, wherein
said support surface of said back plate and an opposing surface of said brush
seal are disposed at a distance from each other,
said bristle of said brush seal has a diameter of 0.15 mm to 0.008 mm,
wherein said back plate includes a recess formed along an arrangement direction
of said bristles,
said recess serves as said support surface, wherein
said bristles of said brush seal are tilted from said attachment portion, and
said support surface of said back plate or a side surface of said retaining plate
facing said brush seal includes a resistance means for preventing said bristles from
moving in such a direction as reduces their tilt angle.

Please add new dependent claim 6 as follows:

A10 --6. (New) The brush seal device according to claim 1, wherein said annular
projection is disposed in a center of said support surface.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. By this Amendment, drawing Figures 13-18, the
Specification, and claims 1-5 are amended, and claim 6 is added. No new matter is
presented.

Claim 5 Allowable

Applicant respectfully appreciates and acknowledges the indication by the
Examiner that claim 5, although objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base
claim (claim 1), would be in condition for allowance if rewritten in independent format to